

THIRTY-FIFTH

Annual Report

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTION

OF THE

Mercantile Library Association

OF THE

CITY OF NEW YORK.

MAY, 1856.

NEW YORK:

BAKER & GODWIN, PRINTERS,

CORNER NASSAU AND SPRUCE STREETS.

1856.

Officers of the Association for 1855-56.

President,
GEORGE C. WOOD.

Vice-President,
JOHN CRERAR.

Secretaries,
Corresponding, ROWLAND H. TIMPSON. *Recording,* GEORGE S. PARTRIDGE, JR.

Treasurer,
WILLIAM H. TAYLOR.

Directors,
WILLIAM H. WICKHAM, FLOYD CLARKSON,
J. LAWRENCE ELDER, W. L. SEAMAN,
JOSEPH F. HANFORD, HENRY B. HYDE,
ALEXANDER P. FISKE.

Librarian,
S. HASTINGS GRANT.

Assistant Librarian,
AUG. D. WHITE.

Presidents of the Association

FROM ITS ORGANIZATION.



1820-21. LUCHUS BULL.	1839....JOHN S. WINTHROP.
1821-22. LUCHUS BULL.	1839....ELIJAH WARD.
1822-23. LUCHUS BULL.	1840....AUGUSTUS E. SILLIMAN.
1823-24. CORNELIUS SAVAGE.	1841....HECTOR MORRISON.
1824-25. BENJAMIN J. SEWARD.	1842....JOHN T. ROBBINS.
1826....BENJAMIN J. SEWARD.	1843....LEWIS McMULLEN.
1827....R. B. BROWN.	1843....RICHARD BURLEW.
1828....R. B. BROWN.	1844....CHARLES E. MILNOR.
1829....R. B. BROWN.	1845....CHARLES E. MILNOR.
1830....R. B. BROWN.	1846....CORNELIUS L. EVERITT.
1831....R. B. BROWN.	1847....CORNELIUS L. EVERITT.
1832....JOHN W. STEBBINS.	1848....THOMAS W. GROSER.
1833....JOHN W. STEBBINS.	1849....ISAAC H. BAILEY.
1834....JOHN W. STEBBINS.	1850....THOMAS J. BAYAUD.
1834....R. R. BOYD.	1851....HENRY A. OAKLEY.
1835....R. R. BOYD.	1852....GEORGE PECKHAM.
1836....CHARLES ROLFE.	1853....WILLARD L. FELT.
1837....CHARLES ROLFE.	1854....DANIEL F. APPLETON.
1838....EDMUND COFFIN.	1854....D. REYNOLDS BUDD.
1855-56....GEORGE C. WOOD.	

The following table exhibits the pecuniary progress of the Association, and the aggregate of members, since its foundation :

Annual additions of members and books, expenditures for books, total receipts, &c., from the 9th Nov. 1820, to 1st May, 1856.

	Number of Members who have joined the Library.	Number of Volumes acquired by Pur- chase and Donation.	Amount expended for Books and Periodi- cals.	Amount expended for Binding.	Cash Donations re- ceived.	Total receipts from all sources except Lec- tures and Classes.
1820-21	204	1,000	\$600 00		\$600 00	\$900 00
1822	76	250	150 00		150 00	510 00
1823	81	100	273 00		250 00	726 69
1824	77	175	208 00			712 23
1825	257	675	619 00	\$73 00	795 00	1,469 00
1826	471	1,000	756 72	190 28	785 75	2,246 42
1827	360	1,200	695 12	31 38		1,750 52
1828	295	1,000	330 27	146 25		1,572 47
1829	414	600	562 30	154 28		1,701 81
1830	486	600	567 91	99 25		1,755 82
1831	507	750	1,177 19	68 44		2,360 71
1832	383	864	1,107 36	197 55		3,033 58
1833	382	1,397	1,303 98	224 20		2,978 98
1834	393	1,090	1,278 20	223 29		2,977 59
1835	680	1,522	2,126 32	238 51		4,333 18
1836	867	1,845	2,286 74	250 70		5,110 80
1837	936	2,547	2,806 47	186 04		6,109 20
1838	1,003	2,471	3,115 72	423 91		7,477 99
1839*	1,097	3,583	4,278 23	729 60		8,082 15
1840	501	390	1,995 19	615 42		7,071 17
1841	627	1,136	1,495 12	591 75		6,935 30
1842	308	1,252	2,179 79	670 77		5,567 70
1843	252	465	797 90	536 85		4,355 86
1844	387	745	708 35	271 25		3,959 20
1845	582	1,428	1,628 60	402 65		4,982 04
1846	609	1,883	2,072 59	500 34		5,044 61
1847	687	2,258	3,311 95	549 19		5,902 90
1848	681	2,276	3,392 71	445 52		6,286 21
1849	1,013	2,517	3,531 83	600 35		7,207 06
1850	1,116	1,865	2,608 63	286 72	3,000 00	7,691 95
1851	1,041	2,957	4,050 01	560 84		8,290 00
1852	1,293	4,346	4,786 35	889 67		9,931 32
1853	1,149	2,900	3,916 54	418 96		9,156 01
1854	1,216	2,409	3,019 07	381 22		10,153 42
1855-6 16 mos. }	1,733	3,588	4,477 42	1,475 44		17,604 28
	22,164	55,084	\$68,214 58	\$12,433 62	\$5,580 75	\$172,942 17

* The extraordinary excess of this year was owing to the fact that the Board anticipated the income of the Association.

Annual Meeting.

THE Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION was held in the Lecture Room, Clinton Hall, Tuesday, May 13th, at 8, P. M.

In the absence of the President, Mr. GEO. C. WOOD, the Vice-President, Mr. JOHN CRERAR, moved that Mr. WILSON G. HUNT be called to the Chair. Carried unanimously.

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was read by the Secretary, and ordered on file.

The Report of the "Committee to examine the Books and other Property of the Association," was read and accepted.

The Report of the Board of Direction was read by the Vice-President.

On motion of Mr. HENRY L. PIERSON, Jr., the report, as read, was accepted, and the usual number ordered to be printed; and also the thanks of the members were tendered to the Board of Direction for their energy and industry during their term of office.

The Report of the Trustees of the Clinton Hall Association was read by WILSON G. HUNT, Esq.

Mr. ISAAC H. BAILEY moved that the Report be accepted,

printed, and attached to the Annual Report of this Association.

Mr. WILLARD L. FELT offered the following :

Resolved, That we tender our hearty congratulations to the Trustees of the Clinton Hall Association on the success of their labors in co-operating with the Board of Direction of the Mercantile Library Association for the promotion of the welfare of our Institution during the past year.

Carried.

Mr. LUTHER D. COOK, of Sag Harbor, Mr. THOMAS TILSTON, and Mr. WILLIAM E. DODGE addressed the meeting, congratulating the Association on its present prosperous condition.

Mr. ISAAC H. BAILEY moved, "That our thanks be tendered to WILSON G. HUNT, Esq., for his kindness in presiding over our meeting this evening." Carried.

Mr. HUNT, in obedience to a unanimous call, then arose and addressed the meeting as follows :

GENTLEMEN :

I am not insensible of the honor conferred upon me this evening by your call, for which please accept my thanks.

I am happy to witness the zeal manifested by the young men of this city, in behalf of an institution which has done so much in forming the mercantile character of New York, and which is destined to have an influence on the world at large. New York is becoming a great center—already her ships may be found on every ocean. Her financial policy is felt at home and abroad; an expansion by the banks in the city of New York is followed throughout the land; and a sudden contraction in discounts is as the electric shock in every department of trade. By her expansions, prices of foreign products are advanced, and importations invited. By her contractions, prices fall, and importations are reduced.

With you, Young Gentlemen, the future merchants of this city, rests a great responsibility. By strict integrity and fair dealing will the character of the merchants be elevated; and if you lack in this important principle, it will be depressed. With you is committed the treasure of mercantile honor, and upon you will depend its rise or fall. Great financial matters will fall on you to settle—Free Trade on the one hand, and a tariff for the protection of home industry on the other, remains yet undecided.

The great question of Currency will present itself to you in all its different bearings, as a representative and measure of value; its expansion and contraction, and the effect upon the country, the people and the value of property; the value in proportion to the supply and demand of the article in the world, and the measure of value by which it is computed; the effect of an expanded or cheap currency upon speculation and industry; of a paper currency based upon specie in our business relations with other countries. It will be for you to inquire if the financial policy of this country tends to raise prices. If the value of the commodity be estimated by the supply and demand, and by the amount of the circulating medium in existence, then any extension of the currency by this country beyond that of the one with whom she deals, will have the effect to raise prices, and enable the country retaining their standard to manufacture under the low price of labor and material based upon a stringent and dear currency, and bring their articles to the United States for sale. It is the expansion of the currency which induces importations from abroad, adds to the expense of home productions, and gives to foreign manufacturers a monopoly in our home market. It is easy to be seen that a country with labor at twenty-five cents per day, and prices of living in proportion, is enabled to furnish that portion of the manufactured article at one-third of the cost of a country paying three times that sum. Take an article, two-thirds of the expense consisting in labor, and allow the raw material to cost the same—the expense of the commodity manufactured would cost in the cheap country or dear currency one-half of what it could be produced for in the other. Take a piece of cloth manufactured in Germany, costing there one dollar, bring it here at an expense (including thirty per cent. duty) of fifty-five cents, making in all one dollar and fifty-five cents per yard, while the home article cannot under our system of high prices be produced for less than two dollars per yard. If this be true, it will be necessary to regulate our

currency in order to trade successfully with foreign countries; for as in the case of the cloth we attempt protection to the extent of thirty per cent., while under our system fifty will not effect the object.

Gentlemen, your Library requires constant attention. You have the materials to make it a great institution, an honor to the merchants who have so cheerfully subscribed in its support, and a credit to you.

The Trustees of Clinton Hall are anxious to have the present debt removed, and for that purpose offer to the merchants and others seven hundred and fifty shares of stock in Clinton Hall, every share worth to the subscriber in privileges enjoyed, all that it costs, and more for the money than can be obtained anywhere beside. We want to pay off this debt at once, and have the income from the building appropriated for books and other improvements, rendering your Library more valuable. You now have forty-six thousand volumes; pay off this debt, and you can add ten thousand volumes annually.

You have a large number of members, most of them young men, active and zealous in a good cause, starting out in life, hoping to succeed in what they undertake. We want an additional subscription of seven hundred and fifty shares, and there are forty-nine hundred and twenty-five paying members. That the object can be accomplished if undertaken, I am certain. Your President obtained subscriptions during the past winter, of twenty-six shares; and if he could obtain so many, I am sure there are but few among the number that could not obtain one. A sinking fund will pay off the incumbrances in twenty-five years; but we want to do it now. We want to see the Mercantile Library in our own day in the full tide of success.

At the conclusion of Mr. Hunt's remarks, upon motion of of Mr. BENJ. PRICE, the same was ordered to be published.

The following resolution was then offered by Mr. WILLIAM H. ARNOUX, which was adopted without dissent.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to Messrs. LUTHER D. COOK, THOMAS TILESTON, and WILLIAM E. DODGE, for the interest they have taken in our Institution, and for the able addresses with which they have favored us this evening.

Mr. W. HART JACKSON then offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the recommendation of Mr. DODGE, "that the members of the Mercantile Library Association should assist the Clinton Hall Association to pay off its debt," meets the approval of this meeting ; and the same is recommended to the consideration of the incoming Board of Direction.

Adopted without dissent.

On motion, adjourned.

GEO. S. PARTRIDGE, JR.,
Recording Secretary.

WILLIAM H. TAYLOR, Treasurer, in account with the MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Dr.			Cr.
Balance in Treasury, January 1, 1855,	\$10 52	Cash paid for Books,	\$3,209 08
Cash received from Initiation Fees, .	\$1,733 00	" " Periodicals,	1,268 34
" " Quarterly Dues, .	12,111 15	" " Binding,	1,475 44
" " Catalogues, .	150 88	" " Salaries,	5,921 67
" " Fines,	160 96	" " Light,	1,646 15
" " Course of Reading	6 96	" " Fixtures,	567 88
" " Sundries,	61 00	" " Advertising,	208 45
Appropriated from Class Fund,	14,223 95	" " Printing,	567 85
" " Lecture Receipts, .	95 00	" " Catalogues,	410 87
Balance in Treasury of Demilt Fund, .	2,297 47	" " Stationery,	291 39
Interest on Bond,	38 16	" " Incidentals,	518 75
	342 17	" " Insurance,	705 40
		" " Cleaning,	72 02
		Balance to credit of Demilt Fund, . .	\$16,863 99
		" " Library "	12 41
			131 57
	\$17,007 27		143 98
			\$17,007 27

Respectfully submitted,
W. H. TAYLOR, Treasurer.

Balance on hand to credit of Lecture Fund, \$207 61
" " " Class " 143 44
\$351 05

Annual Report.

FELLOW MEMBERS :

At the last Annual Meeting of this Association, held Tuesday evening, January 9th, 1855, a resolution was adopted, changing the time for holding the Annual Meeting from the second Tuesday in January to the second Tuesday in May. Also a resolution providing that the Officers and Directors of the Association to be chosen at the next annual election, be continued in office until the new election provided for by the article of the Constitution then amended.

In accordance with these resolutions and the requirements of the Constitution, the Board of Directors elected January 16th, 1855, do this evening submit for your approval the Thirty-fifth Annual Report, and surrender into your hands the important trusts confided to their direction.

In so doing, your Board have great pleasure in being able to record the continued prosperity and increased usefulness of our Institution, as evinced in the following details of the transactions and results of their administration.

MEMBERS.

The number of members belonging to the Association January,	
1st, 1855, was,	4,603
There have since been added at \$2,	1,403
“ “ “ at \$5,	330
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Making the total accessions (for 16 months),	1,733
And have withdrawn, at \$2,	332
“ “ at \$5,	102
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	434
Accounts closed by constitution at \$2,	975
“ “ “ at \$5,	92
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	1,067
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	1,501
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	232
To this are to be added, however, for accounts reopened	
after having been closed,	90
Net gain for 16 months,	322
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No. of members, May 1st, 1856,	4,925
To which add Stockholders of the Clinton Hall Association,	
	1,005
Honorary members,	105
Life members,	9
Subscribers to the Reading Room,	20
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Total number of persons entitled to the privileges of the Library	
May 1st, 1856,	6,064
Of these there are—	
Members paying annually \$2,	4,444
Subscribers “ “ \$5,	481
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	4,925

This account having been made up for a period of sixteen months, we present a statement of the membership ending December 31st, 1855, compared with the five years preceding.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS.			Members Added.	Members Withdrawn.	Accounts Closed.
Twelve months ending Dec. 31, 1855,			1306	310	892
“ “ “ 1854,			1216	411	685
“ “ “ 1853,			1149	307	553
“ “ “ 1852,			1153	286	610
“ “ “ 1851,			1041	260	328
“ “ “ 1850,			1116	238	508

It will be perceived that the number of members joining the Association in 1855, is far greater than that of any year since the foundation of the Institution.

The number of withdrawals is the average of the five years preceding, whilst the accounts closed in conformity with the requirements of the Constitution have been somewhat larger.

Additions have been made to the list of Honorary Members, by the choice of Hon. HAMILTON FISH, HENRY A. STONE, Esq., and WILLIAM M. THACKERAY, Esq.

We record with deep regret the death of two of our Honorary Members—Hon. ABBOTT LAWRENCE and Rev. JOHN O. CHOULES, D. D.

FINANCE.

From the Treasurer's Report it will be seen that the Library receipts for sixteen months ending April 30, 1856 (Lecture, Class, and Demilt Funds excepted), have been	\$14,223 95
Appropriation to Library account, from Class Fund, for the purchase of "Hogarth" and "Illustrations to Hume's England," and fixtures for the down-town office, .	95 00
From Demilt Fund for Books,	367 92
From Lecture Committee,	2,297 47
Add balance received from our predecessors,	10 52
Total receipts applicable to Library purposes,	16,994 86
The expenditures have been	16,863 29
Balance on hand April 30, 1856,	\$131 57

The Treasurer has reported to you in detail, the items of expenditure. The great increase over previous years in nearly every item of expense, requires some explanation.

The sum expended for Books, Periodicals, and Binding, has been \$5,922 11 ; of this, 1,444 69 was paid for binding,—a much larger expenditure than was ever before made in this department.

During the administration of previous Boards, and partly owing to the crowded condition of the shelves, a large number of books were stowed in the garret of old Clinton Hall, all of them needing repairs. On a careful examination of this property, it was seen that at a comparatively small expense many of these books could be rebound and placed upon the shelves. This was accordingly done, and all that were considered worth restoring, sent to the binders. A considerable number of them were sent in the latter part of 1854, to be bound, and not having been returned in time to be included in the report, the cost is included in this year's expenses.

The Board have had the books in the library carefully examined, and repaired so far as necessary, believing it to be for the best interests of the Association to take good care of its property. The cost of binding the periodicals and newspapers for two years, 1854 and 1855, is also included.

On account of the great cost of repairs at the bindery, your Board tried the experiment of employing a competent man to work in the library, and have found a great saving in so doing ; 558 volumes have been repaired in the building at an expense of only \$42 25. The number of volumes rebound, is 3,203, the cost of which is shown in the Treasurer's Report.

Printing.—The sum stated shows no increase over 1854 (for the same period) ; it covers the expense of printing

5,000 copies of the last Annual Report, and two editions of the Constitution, 4,500 copies.

Light.—This now important item of expense exhibits a large increase; it includes, however, the bills for November and December, 1854, not received in time for the Annual Report of that year. The amount expended for gas, as reported by the Treasurer, in 1854, was \$481 88. The average cost per month, for gas, since removal, has been about one hundred dollars.

Salaries.—This branch of our expenditures has largely increased, mainly owing to the increased number of attendants. The amount paid in 1854, was \$3,643 07. For the twelve months ending December 31, 1855, \$4,411 47—an increase of \$778 40 over the previous year. It should be recollected that, although we show a large increased expenditure for salaries and light over 1854, that the report of that year embraces but a little more than six months' occupancy of our present quarters; and that the library was closed nine weeks of that year, preparatory to removal. The present high cost of living in this city, and the necessity of a fair compensation to the employees of the Association, who number, including the Superintendents of the "Reading Room" and down-town office, ten persons, must be apparent to you.

Advertising.—The amount expended has been for the sixteen months, less than for any year since 1850.

Incidentals.—This item includes postage, incidental expenses of down-town office (carriage of books, &c.), and shows an increase for twelve months ending December 31, 1855, over the same period of 1854, of \$61 02.

Insurance.—Ten thousand dollars additional insurance has been obtained, and \$300 on the down-town office. Your property is insured at the present time, for \$40,000 on the library, and \$300 on the lower office, 16 Nassau street.

Fixtures.—The amount paid for fixtures in 1854, was \$496 38; for twelve months ending December 31, 1855, \$402 05; including \$135 50 for placing statuary, paid out of “lecture monies.”

Catalogue.—The cost of the new Supplementary Catalogue is, for paper, \$127 14, and printing, \$400. An appropriation was made from lecture receipts to cover the cost of printing. The entire amount will undoubtedly be refunded to the library from the sale of catalogues during the coming year.

The increased receipts from ordinary library sources, for the twelve months ending December 31, 1855, over 1854, was \$1,348 15. The increased expenditures in the items of salaries, light, and insurance, was \$1,679 68.

The unprecedented pecuniary success of the lectures the past winter, resulting in a net gain of \$2,499 66, has enabled your Board to carry out their plans, place the property of the Association in complete order, add 3,004 volumes to the library, besides remitting to London \$400, for the purchase of recent standard books, not to be procured in this country (and not yet received); also, to defray the entire cost of the new Supplementary Catalogue of some 200 pages.

Every claim against the Association has been paid in full; and we announce to you, that on the 30th day of April, 1856, our Institution was entirely free from debt!

LIBRARY.

The whole number of volumes in the Library, on the 1st of

January, 1855, was	42,795
Since added by purchase,	3,004
“ “ donation,	584
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Total number 1st May, 1856,	46,383

To this should be added about 400 volumes ordered from London, and not yet received, and for which \$400 has been remitted.

The additions may be classified as follows :

	No. of vols.
Theology,	104
Mental and Moral Philosophy,	810
Political Science, Law, &c.	467
History, Biography, and Travels,	780
Mathematics,	10
Natural Sciences,	88
Medicine,	39
Technology,	126
Encyclopædic,	30
Fiction,	1,134

Of which, 201 are folios and quartos ; 1,425 octavos, and 1,962 duodecimos.

The annexed list comprises some of the most valuable additions :

ENCYCLOPÆDIC.

Encyclopædia Britannica. 8th edition, Tomlinson. Cyclopædia of Useful Arts vols. 1-9, 4to. and Manufactures. 2 vols. roy. 8vo.	
Pierer. Universal Lexikon. 20 vols. 8vo. and Atlas fol.	Appleton's Cyclopædia of Biography. Royal 8vo.
Duyckinck. Cyclopedia of American Literature. 2 vols. royal 8vo. (2 copies.)	Lippincott. Pronouncing Gazetteer. Royal 8vo.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

- Roorbach. Supplement to the Bibliotheca Americana. Royal 8vo.
 London Catalogue of Books, published from 1831 to 1855. 8vo.
 General Index to Vols. 1-50 of Blackwood's Magazine. 8vo.
- Catalogue of Books in the Astor Library, relating to Oriental Linguistics. 8vo.
 Backer. Bibliothèque des Ecrivains de la Compagnie de Jesus. 2 vols. royal 8vo.

ILLUSTRATED WORKS AND FINE ARTS.

- Plates to illustrate Hume's History of England.
 Knickerbocker Gallery. 4to.
 McLees. Series of Alphabets for Engravers. Fol.
 Ruskin. Modern Painters. Vol. 3, royal 8vo.
- Hogarth's Works Illustrated.
 Kugler. Kleine Schriften und Studien zur Kunstgeschichte. 3 vols. 8vo.
 Woods. Letters of an Architect from France, Italy, and Greece. 2 vols. 4to.

POLITICAL ECONOMY.

- Dictionnaire de l'Economie Politique. 2 vols. royal 8vo.
 Simmonds. Commercial Products of the Vegetable Kingdom. 8vo.
 Courcelle. Traité des Entreprises Industrielles. 8vo.
 Reports of Experiments on the Strength of Metals for Cannon. 4to.
 Hubner. Die Banken. 8vo.
 Courcelle. Traité des Operations de Banque. 8vo.
 Kleinschrod. Die Internationale Patentgesetzgebung. 8vo.
- Stolle. Einheimische und Ausländische Patentgesetzgebung. 8vo.
 Exposition Universelle de 1851. Vols. 4-9, 3 vols. 8vo.
 Macgregor. Commercial Tariffs and Regulations of Europe and America. 23 parts, folio.
 Zolltarife aller Länder. 8vo.
 Annals of Congress; 1st to 17th Congress. 40 vols. 8vo.
 Congressional Globe; vols. 28-31. 6 vols. 4to.

STATISTICS.

- Reden. Deutschland und das Uebrige Europa. 8vo.
 La Patria. France Ancienne et Moderne. 2 vols. 12mo.
 Schnitzler. Statistique Generale de la France. 4 vols. 8vo.
 Le Play. Les Ouvriers Européens. Fol.
 Franz. Die Preussische Staat. Vol. 1, 8vo.
 Watkins' London Directory, 1855.
- Annuaire du Commerce pour 1855. Royal 8vo.
 Post Office London Directory, for 1855.
 Slater's Directory of Manchester, Eng. 1855.
 Gore's Directory for Liverpool and Environs.
 Glasgow Post Office Directory, 1855.
 Thom's Irish Almanack and Directory for 1855.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- Brougham. Contributions to the Edinburgh Review. 3 vols. 8vo.
 Jefferson's Writings. 9 vols. 8vo.
 Grimm. Deutsche Wörterbuch. Vol. 1, 4to.
 Bengel. Gnomon Novi Testamenti. 2 vols. 8vo.
 Bunsen. Der Zeichen der Zeit. 2 vols. 12mo.
 Lewis on the Credibility of Early Roman History. 2 vols. 8vo.
 Swedenborg. Heavenly Arcana. Vols. 5-12 and Index. 8vo.

SCIENCE.

- Natural History of New York State. Vol. 19, 4to.
 Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge. Vol. 7, 4to.
 Gillis. United States Astronomical Expedition to Chili. 2 vols. 4to.
 Army Meteorological Register, from 1843 to 1854. 4to.
 Atlas to Humboldt's Kosmos. Folio.
 Siebold. Anatomy of the Invertebrata. Vol. 1, 8vo.
 Faraday. Experimental Researches in Electricity. Vol. 3.
 Brougham and Routh. Analytical View of Sir Isaac Newton's Principia. 8vo.

LAW.

- United States Digest. Vol. 8, 8vo.
 United States Statutes at Large. Vol. 10, 8vo.
 Bowyer. Commentaries on Universal Public Law. 8vo.
 Hilliard. American Law of Real Property. 2 vols. 8vo.
 Troubat. Law of Commandatory and Limited Partnership in the United States. 8vo.
 Levi. Mercantile Law of Great Britain and Ireland. 8vo.
 Ross. Leading Commercial Cases of England and Scotland. 2 vols. 8vo.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.

- Colton. Atlas of the World. 2 vols. fol.
 Spruner. Historisch-Geographischer Hand Atlas. 3 vols. folio.
 Petermann. Mittheilungen aus J. Perthes' Geographischer Anstalt. 1855. 4to.
 Hunt. Pantological System of History. Fol.
 Raleigh. History of the World. Fol.
 Falkener. Museum of Classical Antiquities. R. 8vo.
 Overbeck. Pompeji. 8vo.
 Annuaire Historique Universelle, for 1853. 8vo.
 Force. American Archives. 9 vols. folio.
 Topographical and Historical Collections relating to New Hampshire. 3 vols. 8vo.
 Holland. History of Western Massachusetts. 2 vols. 8vo.
 Bond. Genealogies of the Early Settlers of Watertown. 8vo.
 Hollister. History of Connecticut. 2 vols. 8vo.
 Documents Relative to the Colonial History of New York. Vols. 3-6 and 9, 4to.
 American Pioneer. 2 vols. 8vo.

- Proceedings of the New York Historical Society, 1843-48. 3 vols. 8vo.
 Raumer. Historisches Taschenbuch, 1855. 12mo.
 Mallet. Histoire de Dannemarc. 9 vols. 12mo.
 Brehm. Reiseskizzzen aus Nord-Ost-Afrika. 3 vols. 8vo.
 Lodge. Peerage of the British Empire to 1856. R. 8vo.
 Wagner and Scherzer. Reisen in Nord America. 3 vols. 8vo.
 Putter. Historical Development of the German Constitution. 3 vols. 8vo.
 Reports of Explorations for the Pacific Railroad. Vol. 1, 4to.
 Irving. Life of George Washington. Vols. 1 and 2, *quarto*.
 Prescott. History of Philip II. Vols. 1 and 2, 8vo. (25 copies.)
 Brewster (Sir David). Life of Sir Isaac Newton. 2 vols. 8vo.

The character of the works added to the Library, as may be seen from the list now read, will compare favorably with previous years. Duplicate copies of all popular works have been purchased, and every effort made to supply the constantly increasing demand from our members; who can always find good books in the Library, but, at the same time, must recollect that to supply every call for a new popular work, would require the purchase of several thousand copies.

The total number of volumes donated is 584; among them are many rare and valuable publications. The aggregate number of volumes donated to the institution for the four years preceding, was 573.

We are deeply indebted to the following-named gentlemen and institutions for their contributions to the Library :

- | | |
|---|---|
| Hon. C. F. Adams, 1 pamphlet. | American Education Society, 1 pamphlet. |
| Dr. J. G. Adams, 3 pamphlets. | American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, 7 pamphlets. |
| American Antiquarian Society, 1 pamphlet. | American Home Missionary Society, 23 pamphlets. |
| American Anti-Slavery Society, 2 pamphlets. | American Institute, N. Y. 2 vols. |
| American Baptist Home Mission Society, 19 pamphlets. | American Missionary Association, 4 pamphlets. |
| American Bible Society, 1 pamphlet. | American Temperance Union, 2 pamphlets. |
| American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, 23 pamphlets. | American Tract Society, 23 pamphlets. |
| American Congregational Union, 1 vol. | |

- Messrs. D. Appleton & Co. 4 vols.
 Apprentices' Library, N. Y. 1 vol.
 Wm. H. Arnoux, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Athenæum, Columbus, O. 1 pamphlet.
 Hon. A. D. Bache, 2 vols.
 Rev. Robt. Baird, D. D., Yonkers, 1 pamphlet.
 Frank W. Ballard, 2 pamphlets.
 Juan Barcelo, Esq. 1 vol.
 W. B. Bend, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Hon. T. H. Benton, 7 pamphlets and 2 vols.
 Bible Society, Mass. 1 pamphlet.
 John Bigler, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Rev. J. L. Blake, 2 vols.
 Board of Missions of Dutch Ref. Presbyterian Church, 2 pamphlets.
 Board of Publication of the Presbyterian Church, 1 pamphlet.
 Boston Mercantile Library Association, 1 pamphlet.
 Boston Public Library, 2 pamphlets.
 G. W. Boyd, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Hon. Erastus Brooks, 6 pamphlets and 5 vols.
 Bunce & Bros. 1 pamphlet.
 W. B. Campbell, Esq. 2 pamphlets.
 E. S. Capron, Esq. 1 vol.
 W. F. Cary, Esq., 2 vols.
 Central American Education Society, 4 pamphlets.
 L. Maria Child, 3 vols.
 F. W. Christern, Esq., 2 vols. and 1 pamphlet.
 S. F. Cole, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Henry Clarke, West Poultney, Vt. 9 pamphlets.
 Frederick Clarkson, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 J. G. Cogswell, LL. D., 2 pamphlets and 2 vols.
 The Commissioners of Emigration, 1 vol.
 Convention of Delegates of Liberal Societies in N. Y. 2 pamphlets.
 E. B. Corwin, Esq. 1 vol.
 John Crerar, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Major Crespach, 2 pamphlets.
 Wm. P. Curtis, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Hon. F. B. Cutting, 6 vols.
 Prof. Jas. D. Dana, New Haven, Conn. 2 pamphlets.
 J. D. DeKay, Esq. 9 pamphlets and 3 vols.
 Department of State, Washington, 208 vols.
 Edward H. Dixon, Esq. 6 vols.
 C. W. Elliott, Esq. 3 pamphlets.
 J. Milton Emerson & Co. 2 vols.
 Charles C. Evans, Esq. 1 vol.
 Hon. Edward Everett, 3 vols.
 W. P. Fetridge, Esq. 4 pamphlets.
 Hon. Hamilton Fish, 2 pamphlets and 47 vols.
 Foreign Missionary Society of New York and Brooklyn, 6 pamphlets.
 Franklin Lyceum, Providence, 1 pamphlet.
 Free Public Library, Liverpool, 1 vol.
 Free Public Library, New Bedford, 1 pamphlet.
 Franklin Library Association, N. Y. 1 pamphlet.
 Thomas H. Genin, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Daniel C. Gilman, Esq., New Haven, 2 pamphlets.
 S. Hastings Grant, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Rev. Edw. Harris, 1 vol.
 Dr. Hart, Hartville, 1 vol.
 R. M. Hartley, Esq. 1 vol.
 R. Sands Hart, Esq. 2 pamphlets and 2 vols.
 Historical and Philosophical Society, Ohio, 2 vols.
 Thos. Hitchcock, 9 vols.
 R. Hoe & Co. 2 pamphlets.
 Home Missionary Society, 10 pamphlets.
 Kay & Bros. 4 pamphlets.
 E. J. C. Kewen, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Sidney Kopman, Esq. 5 vols.
 Thomas Lawson, Surgeon-Gen. U. S. Army, Wash. 1 vol.
 Messrs. Lawrence, Stone & Co. 4 vols.

- F. Leyboldt, Esq. 1 pamphlet and 2 vols.
 John Livingston, Esq. 1 vol.
 H. Long & Brother, 3 pamphlets.
 J. S. Loring, Esq. 53 pamphlets and 5 vols.
 J. F. Luhene, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 R. C. McCormick, jun. 3 vols. and 1 pamphlet.
 Archibald McLees, Esq. 1 vol.
 John McMullen, Esq. 2 pamphlets.
 Mariners' Family Industrial Society of the Port of New York, 7 pamphlets.
 Medical College, New York, 5 pamphlets.
 Mercantile Library Association, St. Louis, 1 pamphlet.
 Mercantile Library Association, Hamilton, C. W., 1 pamphlet.
 Methodist Episcopal Missionary Society, 1 pamphlet.
 Methodist Episcopal S. School Union, 7 pamphlets.
 Methodist Episcopal Tract Society, 3 pamphlets.
 James O. Miller, jun., Montgomery, N. Y., 1 pamphlet.
 Missionary Society of Methodist Episcopal Church, 7 pamphlets.
 E. J. Montgomery, Esq. 1 vol.
 Montreal Mercantile Library Association, 2 pamphlets.
 George H. Moneypenny, Esq., Washington, 2 vols.
 L. C. Moore, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Moore, Wilstach, Keys, & Co., Cincinnati, 1 vol.
 Capt. R. C. Morgan, Washington, 3 pamphlets and 1 vol.
 O. W. Morris, Esq. 2 pamphlets.
 Thos. Mulligan, Esq. 1 vol.
 National Observatory, Washington, 2 vols.
 New York Association for Improvement of Condition of the Poor, 11 pamphlets.
 New York Bible Society, 15 pamphlets.
 City of New York, 1 vol.
 New York City Tract Society, 19 pamphlets.
 New York Historical Society, 1 pamphlet.
 New York State Colonization Society, 6 pamphlets.
 New York Society Library, 1 pamphlet.
 New York State, 35 vols.
 New York Marine Bible Society, 1 pamphlet.
 New York State Library, 1 pamphlet.
 Hon. Henry Nicoll, 37 vols.
 Horatio N. Otis, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Martyn Payne, M. D. 1 " "
 Portland Athenæum, 1 " "
 R. A. Parsells, Esq., N. Y. Post Office, 1 vol.
 Patent Office, 2 vols.
 Peabody Library, 2 pamphlets.
 J. G. Pearson, Esq. 10 vols.
 Pennsylvanian Progressive Friends, Longwood, 1 pamphlet.
 Hon. Guy R. Petton, 7 vols.
 J. Watts de Peyster, Brig. Gen. 1st Bat. 4 vols.
 M. Andre Poey, Esq. 5 vols.
 B. Pomeroy, Esq., Southport, Conn. 1 pamphlet.
 Hon. E. R. Potter, 2 pamphlets.
 Protestant Episcopal Society for Promotion of Evangelical Knowledge, 1 pamphlet.
 J. H. Raymond, Esq. 1 pamphlet and 2 vols.
 Rhode Island Historical Society, 1 pamphlet.
 The Regents of the University Ex. Off. Trustees of State Lib. in behalf of N. Y. 3 pamphlets and 10 vols.
 Rev. James Pierce Root, 1 vol.
 E. P. Rudd, Esq. 1 vol.
 Andreas Rigopoulos, 1 pamphlet.
 T. H. Saunders, Esq., London, 1 vol.

- Secretary of the Senate of the U. S. 9 vols.
 Hon. Thos. H. Seymour, 1 pamphlet.
 W. A. Shannon, Esq. 1 vol.
 John Sibley, Esq., Cambridge, 5 pamphlets.
 Hon. Daniel E. Sickles, Albany, 1 vol.
 B. Silliman, jun., Esq. 2 pamphlets.
 A. M. Sort, Esq. 2 pamphlets.
 Southern Aid Society, 3 pamphlets.
 James R. Spaulding, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Thos. N. Stanford, Esq. 1 pamphlet.
 Fred. P. Stanton, Esq. 1 vol.
 Hon. R. H. Stanton, 3 vols.
 Robert L. Stuart, Esq. 1 vol.
 Thos. S. Swain, Esq., Columbia College, 1 vol.
 Henry P. Tappan, D. D., Ann Arbor, Mich. 1 pamphlet.
 Alex. S. Taylor, Esq., Monterey, 1 pamphlet.
 R. H. Timpson, Esq. 2 pamphlets.
 Abraham Tomlinson, Esq., Poughkeepsie, 1 vol.
 John Torrey, LL. D., 1 vol. and 1 map.
 Trustees of Astor Library, 1 pamphlet.
 John Van Deusen, 1 vol.
 Hon. W. A. Walker, 21 vols.
 Adolphus Wiesner, Esq., 1 vol.
 Hon. John Wentworth, 2 pamphlets.
 Hon. John Wheeler, 9 vols.
 Mrs. A. D. White, 2 vols.
 C. S. Williams, Esq., Conn. 1 vol.
 Williams, Stevens, Williams & Co. 1 pamphlet.
 J. Huntington Woolcott, Bost. 1 vol.
 Geo. C. Wood, Esq., 1 pamphlet and 2 vols.
 J. DeWynne, Esq. 2 pamphlets.
 Young Men's Association, Buffalo, 2 pamphlets.
 Young Men's Association, Chicago, Ill. 1 pamphlet.
 Young Men's Institute, Hartford, 1 pamphlet.
 Young Men's Library Association, Worcester, 2 pamphlets.
 Young Men's Mercantile Library Association, Cincinnati, 2 pamphlets and 2 vols.
 C. Zabriskie, Esq. 43 vols.

Our special thanks are due for large and important presentations from,—

- The Department of State, Washington, through his Excellency Secretary MARCY, consisting of 208 volumes of Public Documents, including the Annals of Congress and Force's American Archives.
 Hon. HENRY NICOLL, nearly a complete set of the Annals of Congress.
 Hon. HAMILTON FISH, valuable Public Documents.
 Hon. WM. A. WALKER, Hon. JOHN WHEELER, and Hon. ERASTUS BROOKS, similar favors.
 GEO. C. WOOD, Esq., a fine copy of Sir Walter Raleigh's History of the World.
 J. G. PEARSON, Esq., ten copies of the Diary of Amos Lawrence.
 MESSRS. LAWRENCE, STONE & Co., four copies of the same work.
 J. S. LORING, Esq., of Boston, numerous acceptable pamphlets.
 Brig. Gen. DE PEYSTER, valuable Military Documents ;—and from Several Religious and Benevolent Societies of our city, of Reports and Transactions to complete our series.

We would also especially mention a unique work on Paper Manufacture, prepared by T. H. SAUNDERS, Esq., of London, for the Paris Exhibition, and afterwards presented to our institution by his American agent. It contains a history of this department of industry, followed by specimens of the different varieties of hand and machine made papers, and of papers destined to special uses, as bank notes, checks, photographs. It is estimated that the work could not have cost less than one thousand dollars.

To give some idea of the business of the institution, we present to you the following statistics :

No. of vols. delivered from the Library,	137,252
“ “ No. 2 Nassau street,	14,682
“ “ Reading Room,	8,340
	Total,	160,274
No. of Visitors to the Reading Room,	147,980
		<hr/> 308,254

Making a total for sixteen months, of three hundred and eight thousand two hundred and fifty-four ; or, a daily average of 750 members, who avail themselves of the privileges offered by the institution.

Each volume in the Library has had an average of nearly four readers ; and on an average each member of our Association has drawn from the shelves more than thirty volumes.

CATALOGUE.—Our Board, adopting the suggestion made in the last Annual Report, have had prepared a General Supplement to our Catalogue (to be bound with it), of all books added to the Library since 1850, some 14,000 volumes ; it will contain also a complete list of all the novels, a small edition of which has been printed to be sold separately.

One hundred and fifty pages of the Supplement have

been printed, and paid for, at a cost of \$410 87; about fifty pages remain to be printed, to be paid for out of funds in the hands of the Treasurer, appropriated for the purpose (\$116 27), and which will more than cover the cost of its completion. It has been delayed in consequence of recent purchases, but will be ready for delivery in a few days.

In April, 1855, your Librarian, Mr. S. HASTINGS GRANT, received leave of absence for the purpose of visiting Europe, and of becoming personally acquainted with the librarians and libraries of the Old World, thereby better qualifying himself for his responsible duties at home.

Mr. Grant's Report, appended, is of great interest and value. The Board beg to add their testimony to that of their predecessors, to the faithfulness and ability of Mr. Grant, who deserves the warmest thanks of every member, and of every friend of this institution, for his zeal in advancing the interests of the Library, and the fidelity with which he has discharged every trust placed in his hands.

During Mr. Grant's absence, Mr. J. P. Root was engaged as acting Librarian, and to compile the new Catalogue.

Mr. Root acquitted himself of his various duties to the entire satisfaction of the Board, who with great pleasure make this acknowledgment of his valuable services.

To Mr. A. D. WHITE, the Assistant Librarian, and to Mr. E. S. GRISWOLD, we beg to convey our entire satisfaction and appreciation of their services; the duties performed by them are arduous, and it requires constant attention on their part to meet the requirements of members.

The experiment of employing a female as Superintendent of the Reading Room having given general satisfaction, it was resolved to try the experiment in the Library. Mrs. White and Miss Davis were engaged in place of lads, hereto-

fore employed. This, although a new field for female labor, is one that is peculiarly adapted to their habits and education; and from our own experience we can commend it to more general adoption.

Application was made by the "Lyceum of Natural History," in March, 1855; and in May, by the "New York Horticultural Society,"—for leave to deposit their libraries on our shelves. Your Board granted the request of both Societies, the Association to be at no risk or expense as regards either.

In June, 1855, Mr. JOSEPH C. MORTON resigned the office of Corresponding Secretary; and Mr. R. H. TIMPSON was elevated to that position. Mr. A. P. FISKE was elected to fill the vacancy in the Board.

Books and Property.—You are referred to the Report of the Committee, created by the Constitution, for all information as regards the present condition of your books, and other property.

THE READING ROOM.

"Unrivalled in point of attraction, beautified with *Truth* and *Silence*, well-imagined emblems of the purposes to which the place is devoted—the acquisition of knowledge, by the silent perusal of the pages in which it is recorded,"—to this department, we take much pleasure in calling your attention.

Various improvements have been made during the year. A Register of the periodicals and newspapers received, has been placed in the room, and contributes greatly to the convenience of members and visitors.

Arrangements were made by your Librarian while in

London, by which our foreign periodicals and newspapers are received with greater expedition and at a less cost than heretofore. So marked is the improvement in these respects that already have the Astor and the Society Libraries availed themselves of the same facilities.

Measures have been taken whereby we shall be in receipt of the *China Mail*, *Friend of India*, *Journal de Constantinople*, and other important foreign publications.

The following are the additions to the department during our term of office :

MAGAZINES.

American.

The Crayon; American Journal of Education; Deutsche Monatsheft; Boston Mercantile Library Reporter; Mining Magazine; United States Nautical Magazine; The Sacred Circle; Western Journal and Civilian; American Messenger; Tiffany's Monthly; The Parish Visitor; Photographic and Fine Art Journal; Barnard's American Journal of Education; The Republican Quarterly; The Union Quarterly; The Scalpel.

Foreign.

The Artizan; The Builder; Educational Times; English Journal of Education; Hogg's Instructor; Leisure Hour; Little Dorrit; Merchants' Magazine; Chess Players' Chronicle; The National Review; Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society; Scottish Review; The Zoist; Rivista Contemporanea (Turin); Annalen der Physik und Chemie (Leipsic); Mittheilungen, von Petermann (Gotha).

NEWSPAPERS.

American.

Albany Evening Journal; Buffalo Express; Philadelphia Daily News; The Toronto Leader; Franklin Repository and Transcript; Pella Gazette; Princeton Press; New York Daily News; The Sun; Christian Advocate and Journal; Colburn's Railroad Advocate; The Examiner; Life Illustrated; Neue Zeit; New Jerusalem Messenger; New-York Chronicle; The Criterion; Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper; Irish News.

Foreign.

Mark Lane Express; Saturday Review; L'Independence Belge; Bremen Handelsblatt; El Tiempo (Bogota); Correio Mercantil (Rio Janeiro); El Mercurio de Provincias (Valparaiso); El Omnibus (Mexico); El Panameño (Panama); L'Opinione (Turin).

In June, 1855, Geo. W. Warren, the Superintendent of the Reading Room, resigned his position; and the Board, after due deliberation, secured the services of Miss EMMA T. WHITTEMORE, to take charge of this department.

This experiment of your Board, of employing "female assistance," has, as before remarked, proved to be in their opinion of decided advantage; and we would express to Miss Whittemore our entire satisfaction for her faithful attention to the department under her charge.

The use of the Reading Room was granted to the Horticultural Society, for their June and September exhibitions. Members of the Association were admitted free of charge, and the rooms were cleaned and put in good order without expense to the Library. Under this arrangement, the rooms were closed two days in June and three days in September.

The beautiful exhibition of the "Horticultural Society" attracted thousands of our members; and we hope to see the experiment repeated during the coming "season of flowers."

The average attendance in the Reading Room, is about 375 per day, or during the past sixteen months 147,980.

NO. 16 NASSAU STREET.

New arrangements were made with the lessee of No. 2 Nassau street, in March, 1855, giving us additional room and better accommodation for our members. The business at this office during the year has been large, and it is found of great convenience to those living down town and in the adjacent cities.

In April of the present year, the office was removed to No. 16 Nassau street, second floor; it is near the Post Office and easy of access. This room has been paid for one year.

The Trustees of the Clinton-Hall Association have consented to pay the rent of the office, \$350 per annum.

In February last, Mr. Henry Hannah resigned his position as Manager. His brother, Mr. GEO. HANNAH, jun., was appointed in his place. Mr. Henry Hannah had been in your employ for several years, and we take great pleasure in bearing testimony to his faithful attention to his duties and zeal for the interests of the Association. Mr. Geo. Hannah, jun., had previously been in the employ of the Association, and we are fully aware of his earnest desires and ability to perform the duties of his position.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

We have great pleasure in reporting that this department is in a most prosperous condition, there having been added during the past year, valuable works of art, presented by friends of the institution.

Year after year, it has been the pleasing duty of each succeeding Board of Directors of this Association, to present to you the names of its benefactors. It is with peculiar gratification that we call your attention to the princely gift of HENRY A. STONE, Esq. Two marble statues of "Truth" and "Silence," received last September, and placed in the Reading Room under the watchful care and supervision of the artist, J. MOSIER, Esq., where they form a pleasing attraction to our numerous visitors, all applauding the munificent liberality of a New-York Merchant, and admiring the work of an American artist, formerly a merchant in this city, and a member of your Association.

Resolutions expressing the sense of the Board, were sent to Mr. Stone, together with a notice of his election as an Honorary Member of the Association; copies of which are here appended:—

Whereas we have been officially notified by the Trustees of the Clinton-Hall Association, of the presentation of two statues by Henry A. Stone, Esq., therefore be it

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of the Mercantile Library Association are hereby tendered to Henry A. Stone, Esq., for his beautiful present of the two marble statues of Truth and Silence.

Resolved, That we are eminently indebted to him, a merchant of New York, for presenting us with two works of art executed by an American artist who was himself once a fellow-merchant, and formerly a member of this institution; and we feel assured that the opportunity afforded us in these works of viewing refined art, while cultivating its kindred branches of science, history, commerce, etc., will not fail of exerting its lasting influence on each of those who are privileged to enjoy the benefits of the institution whose hall is enriched with his munificent liberality. Such a noble contribution to our city, in which examples of fine statuary are yet rare in our public places, confers on us all lasting obligations to the liberal donor.

Resolved, That Henry A. Stone, Esq., be elected an Honorary Member of this Association, and that the Corresponding Secretary be instructed to forward him a notice of his election and a copy of these resolutions suitably engrossed.

The following letter was received in reply :—

ROME, *March* 13, 1856.

A. P. FISKE, Esq.,

*Chairman of the Committee on Arts and Sciences
Mercantile Library Association, New York.*

DEAR SIR :

I have received your kind note of December 30th, inclosing certain resolutions of the Board of Direction, in regard to the statues of Truth and Silence. It affords me great pleasure to know that they are so highly appreciated as works of art. Accept my sincere thanks for the distinction you have conferred upon me by making me an Honorary member of your institution.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

HENRY A. STONE.

A full-length portrait of L. M. HOFFMAN, Esq., was procured by his commercial friends as a "testimonial of their respect for him;" and Messrs. Perit, Sturges, Sherman, and Caswell, the Committee, presented it to this Association. This gift from the merchants above named, on the part of themselves and associates, cannot but be gratifying to the members, as it evinces confidence in our fidelity to perform whatever trusts may be committed to our care.

The communication received from the Committee, and the acknowledgment of the same, is appended :

NEW YORK, Nov. 12, 1855.

TO GEORGE C. WOOD, Esq.,

President of the Mercantile Library Association.

DEAR SIR :

The commercial friends of L. M. Hoffman, Esq., having ordered a full-length portrait of him to be painted, as a testimonial of their respect for him, the undersigned, to whom was committed the procuring of the portrait, and the disposition of the same when painted, have had it executed by George A. Baker, Esq.; and being of the opinion that no more suitable location can be found for it than the rooms of the Mercantile Library Association, they beg leave on behalf of those whom they represent, to present it to that institution.

With great respect,

P. PERIT,

J. STURGES,

BENJ. B. SHERMAN,

JOHN CASWELL,

Committee.

NEW YORK, Nov. 14, 1855.

GENTLEMEN :

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 12th instant, offering to the Mercantile Library Association a full-length portrait of L. M. Hoffman, Esq.

In accepting your very liberal donation, allow me, on behalf of the

Association, to express to you and to the merchants who have so generously aided in this enterprise, our sincere thanks for this mark of their favor, and to assure you that this portrait shall have a safe and fitting resting place on the walls of our "Clinton Hall."

I would also take this opportunity to acknowledge the many obligations of the Association, to the merchants of this city, who have so munificently aided them, and to express the hope that we may continue to merit their favor and support.

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed), GEO. C. WOOD, *President.*

We have the pleasure to acknowledge, from John H. Gourlie, Esq., our valued friend, a proof impression of "Washington Crossing the Delaware," after Leutze. Also, a steel line-engraving giving a bird's eye view of "New York."

From George S. Partridge, Jr., Esq., a photograph of "Sabrina." Also, a photograph of D. Reynolds Budd, Esq., presented by J. F. Hanford.

From S. H. Grant, Esq., a fine copy of "Corregio's Io." And a Landscape "by a Young Lady of Connecticut," from J. F. Hanford, Esq.

A model of a "Sailing Vessel," presented by Daniel F. Appleton, Esq.

Your Board have had the paintings and engravings neatly framed, and labeled with the name of donor and the date of presentation.

Valuable additions have also been made to the collection of Autographs.

During the latter part of the month of August last, the cabinet of Minerals was broken open, the locks forced, and 314 of the finest specimens (more than half of the collec-

tion) stolen. The loss has been partially repaired by gentlemen who feel a deep interest in the institution, some of them having been members of the Board of Direction in years past. Care has been taken to guard against such depredations in future, by placing strong iron bars across the doors.

At the close of the year 1854, the Mineralogical Cabinet contained 627 specimens; it now numbers only 448. The members of the Lyceum of Natural History have placed their duplicate minerals at the service of the Library, and requested Mr. Brownne, the Curator, to select whatever he thought might be useful to the Association. With this liberal offer on the part of that Society, and the donations received, we shall be enabled to repair the loss, and put the collection in a better condition than it has ever been. Our collection of shells has been materially increased.

It had been the intention of your Board to re-arrange the Geographical Department, appropriating the interest of the Demilt Legacy for the purchase of additional Maps and Charts; the delay in the receipt of interest due from this source, and the pressing wants of the Library requiring all the funds at our command, until too late for action by the Committee, prevented its completion.

Suggestions have been made to your Board, by merchants and others, that the Association should make a collection of articles of commerce, both crude and manufactured, such as vegetable and animal fibers used in the manufacture of various fabrics, different metallic products, and any thing that would instruct or interest the members. Collections of this kind have been formed in Europe, and much good has been effected. The advantages enjoyed by the Association for the formation of such a collection, are not within the reach of any other society. Our members are engaged in such a variety

of occupations, and are so numerous, that in a few years a collection would be formed which would be both an honor to and the pride of the Association. Specimens of iron, native and manufactured, in the different stages, have been already promised us by a gentleman connected with that trade.

The following contributions to the Cabinet have been made.

From Mr. W. A. Haines, .	34	Minerals,	10	Specimen Shells.
“ C. M. Wheatley, .	59	“	52	“
“ J. H. Redfield, .	21	“	110	“
“ J. T. Gulick, .			64	“
“ D. Reynolds Budd, .	9	“		
“ S. H. Grant, .	5	“		
“ E. F. Sanderson, .	4	“		
“ R. L. Stuart, .	2	“		
“ Wm. Keymes, .	1	“		
“ J. T. Gulick, .	1	Fish.		
“ Sidney Kopman, .	1	California Rattlesnake.		
Total additions to the Cabinet,				373

DEMILT LEGACY.

The Treasurer acknowledges a balance to the credit of this fund, of \$12 41.

The Board remitted \$100 of the income of this fund to Mr. Grant, while in Europe, for the purchase of such statistical works as might, in his judgment, be valuable to the Library.

Further appropriations were made for Library purposes from the income of this fund, as per Treasurer's Report.

The principal of this fund has been loaned to Mr. Joseph

F. Bridges, of Brooklyn, secured by bond and mortgage since 1853, the interest paid regularly until September, 1855, at which time Mr. B., having made an assignment, failed to pay the interest due.

Since that time, the property mortgaged to us has been sold to Mr. GEO. R. IVES, who has paid all arrears of interest and expenses; and your Board have agreed to continue the loan to him. The security proffered is valued at \$7,500.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

The four scholarships in the gift of the Association are held by the following gentlemen:

Columbia College,	{	Mr. JOHN F. WALTON,
	{	Mr. JOHN H. BROWNING.
New York University, . . .	{	MYER S. ISAACS,
	{	SALEM DUTCHER.

The three last-named gentlemen were appointed by your Board to fill vacancies created by the graduating of Mr. Ostrander, and the withdrawal from the University of Messrs. Fisher and Bisbee, on account of business engagements. Ample testimonials as regards fitness and capacity, were brought by the gentlemen we have appointed, and who, we believe, are reflecting credit upon the institution—and themselves.

CLASSES.

This department originated in the Board of 1838. Up to the present time 2,700 members have availed themselves of its advantages, as follows:

In French,	965	In Elocution,	89
Spanish,	305	Drawing,	11
German,	163	Mathematics,	11
Italian,	17	Phonography,	27
Book-keeping,	243	Gymnastics,	168
Penmanship,	193	Bathing,	288
Chemistry,	48	Horsemanship,	54
Music,	118		
Total,			<u>2,700</u>

Exertions were this year made to form classes in fifteen departments. Only a sufficient number of students were obtained, however, for eleven, as follows :

French Language (two classes),	Prof. A. BASSET,	65
Spanish “ “ “	JUAN BARCELO,	22
German “	Mr. M. ERTHEILER,	12
Vocal Music,	Signor F. BAILINI,	13
Horsemanship,	Mr. W. H. DISBROW,	24
Gymnastics,	Mr. C. F. OTTIGNON,	56
Bathing,	MESSRS. HALL & SHEPARD,	28
Book-keeping,	Mr. THOMAS JONES,	24
Commercial Arithmetic,	“ “	3
Elocution,	Prof. J. B. BROWN,	8
Penmanship,	Mr. A. H. WHEELER,	20
Total number of pupils,		<u>275</u>

A slight decrease as compared with 1854—principally in the Bathing Class. There is also a decrease in the number attending the classes in the Modern Languages. The same fact has been noticed in various prominent schools of the city.

The money receipts of the Class Committee have been	\$2,274 24
And the disbursements,	<u>2,130 80</u>
Balance,	\$143 44
of which \$41 75 is subject to the draft of teachers.	

The Board would congratulate the members of the insti-

tution, on the success of the class system giving instruction in the various branches of education, at a trifling cost to each individual subscriber, enabling him to compete successfully with those who have enjoyed greater advantages. They would also embrace this opportunity to commend the classes to the favorable consideration of members having occasion to take lessons in the languages, book-keeping, mathematics, penmanship, &c. The teachers are capable men, and are entitled to the confidence of their pupils.

LECTURES.

During the administration of the present Board, twenty-five lectures have been delivered, as follows :

1855.

Feb. 27.—One Lecture by HON. SAM HOUSTON, U. S. Senator. Subject—"Texas."

March 13. }
 " 16. } Four Lectures by Dr. R. SOLGER. Subject—"The
 " 20. } Eastern War."
 " 23. }

Nov. 1. }
 " 5. } Four Lectures by WM. M. THACKERAY, Esq. Subject—
 " 8. } "The Four Georges of England, and Society during
 " 12. } their Reign." At Mr. Chapin's Church.
 " 15. }
 " 19. } And repetition of the same to crowded audiences in our
 " 22. } Lecture Room.
 " 26. }

Dec. 1.—One Lecture by Mr. THACKERAY. Subject—"Charity and Humor." For the joint benefit of St. George's Society and the Norfolk Orphan Fund.

1856.

Jan. 16. }
 " 19. } One Lecture by GEO. SUMNER, Esq. Subject—"Old Europe and Young America." And repeated at the request of the Committee.

- Jan. 24.—One Lecture by THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER, Esq. Subject—"The Penalties of Public Life."
- " 30.—One Lecture by J. C. FELLOWS, Esq. Subject—"The Great Southern Republic."
- Feb. 18. }
 " 22. }
 " 27. } Six Lectures by GEO. WILLIAM CURTIS, Esq. Subject—
 " 29. } "Contemporary English Fiction."
 March 5. }
 " 7. }
 " 3.—Address by Hon. EDWARD EVERETT. Subject—"The Character of Washington."

The Lectures were all delivered in our own Lecture Hall, with the exception of addresses from Hon. SAM. HOUSTON and Hon. EDWARD EVERETT, both delivered at the Academy of Music, and Mr. THACKERAY's first course on "The Georges," delivered at Rev. Mr. CHAPIN's Church, and the lecture from the last-named gentleman on "Charity and Humor," delivered at the Metropolitan Theater.

The Board have much pleasure in stating that all the lectures have been attended by large, intelligent, and appreciating audiences, and have elicited warm commendations from the press and the public at large. And they can but feebly express the deep debt of gratitude due by the Association to Hon. EDWARD EVERETT for his generosity in donating the entire net proceeds of his address delivered on the evening of March 3d, at the Academy of Music, before the largest and most intelligent audience ever collected in any building in this country.

Every exertion was made by the Committee to secure the distinguished services of Hon. RUFUS CHOATE and Dr. E. K. KANE. The former gentleman was compelled by the most urgent incompatible engagements, to decline the invitation. Dr. KANE accepted our invitation, but a combination of cir-

cumstances entirely unlooked for, prevented the fulfillment of his engagements, thereby depriving us of the opportunity of paying a well-deserved compliment to one who so intrepidly rendered signal service, in the cause of humanity and science.

The receipts and expenditures of the Lecture Committee are as follows :

Gross Receipts,	\$8,388 90
Expenditures :—	
Amount paid Lecturers,	\$2,819 08
Rent of Academy of Music (twice),	600 00
“ Mr. Chapin’s Church,	240 00
“ Metropolitan Theater,	150 00
Incidental expenses, viz. : advertising, printing, attendants, &c.,	1,514 50—5,323 58
Net balancee,	<u>\$3,065 32</u>

Appropriated by your Board, as follows :

Refunded library for expenses in placing Statuary,	\$135 50
Paid for table in Director’s Room,	40 00
Paid St. George’s Society and Norfolk Orphan Fund net proceeds of “Charity and Humor” Lecture,	566 12
Special appropriation to the Library, of the net proceeds of Hon. Edward Everett’s Address, for the purchase of standard books,	1,116 09
Appropriation to the Library to defray cost of printing Catalogue,	400 00
Appropriation for general library purposes,	600 00
Leaving a balancee in the hands of the Treasurer, to the credit of the Committee, of	\$207 61

The unprecedented pecuniary success of the Lectures—no less than the character of the distinguished gentlemen who

have so cheerfully responded to the invitations of the Committee, give ample testimony, that the Mercantile Library Lectures have lost none of the popularity which for so many years they have enjoyed.

The Board bear willing testimony to the zeal and energy displayed by the Lecture Committee—realizing to the Association \$2,499 64—the net avails of the department under their charge. They have at the same time materially aided two noble charities—The St. George's Society, and The Norfolk Orphan Fund.

LECTURE FUND OF 1852.

The Trustees of this Fund have reported to the Board of Direction, that they have received from the former Board of Trustees, an assignment of the bonds and mortgages held by them, amounting to \$1,500.

They have also received from the former trustees the amount reported as in their hands at the last annual meeting of the Association, viz.: \$238 11, together with six months interest on the bonds and mortgages to January 19th, 1855, \$52 50, with interest on the same, \$7 42.

From the Board of Direction for 1854 they have also received an appropriation of \$100, with interest on same, \$1 17.

They have collected interest on the bonds and mortgages and from the savings bank, \$150 17; and have paid expenses of assignment of mortgage, \$4 50.

The amount in the hands of the Trustees is invested as follows:

On bond and mortgage,	\$1,500 00
In savings bank,	544 87
	<hr/>
	\$2,044 87

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Board have enjoyed an extensive correspondence with sister associations throughout the country, and have interchanged civilities more particularly with, the Mercantile Library Associations of Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Bangor, Pittsburgh, Montreal; the Young Men's Associations of Chicago, Albany, Buffalo, Troy; and Young Men's Institutes of Springfield, Hartford, and New Haven.

They have the gratifying intelligence to add, that through an application made on behalf of the Association by GEO. PECKHAM, Esq., to the Hon. Secretary of State, Mr. MARCY, "that this Association be placed on the list of institutions to receive the publications of Government," has been received with favor, and we are assured that in future their valuable public documents will be forwarded to this institution.

We would also acknowledge our indebtedness to GEORGE CHIPMAN, Esq., State Department, Washington, for valued favors received.

CLINTON HALL ASSOCIATION.

The report of the Trustees of Clinton Hall Association, presented to you this evening by their President, WILSON G. HUNT, Esq., exhibits a full statement of its affairs and proceedings.

The organization of this Association, you are aware, sprang from a desire on the part of the merchants of our city to countenance and aid the efforts of their clerks in the creation and permanent establishment of a Library and Reading Room, for their own use. In the years 1828 to '30, three

hundred and thirty shares of stock were issued; since the purchase of the Astor Place property, six hundred and fifty shares additional—in all nine hundred and eighty, representing a capital of \$98,000—each share entitling the holder to a perpetual membership in your institution. And we are happy to report that the stockholders, old and new, are finding out the value of their investment, and availing themselves of the privileges of our valuable Library and Reading Room.

In December, 1855, your Board, learning from the Trustees, that a payment on the bond became due in February, and that a considerable sum was required in addition to the amount in hands of their Treasurer, to meet this payment, resolved to do something towards raising the sum required. The Report read, shows to you that the twenty-five thousand dollars were paid; and your Board have the satisfaction of knowing that the “Appeal” they sent forth was cheerfully responded to by nearly every merchant called upon.*

In this connection, we would say one word to the 4,925 members of the Mercantile Library Association.

The Trustees have done nobly, have given their time and money to aid you, and it is fully time that *you* should do something for them and yourselves. With your personal and individual efforts, the subscription required to pay off the bond and mortgage (750 shares) could be secured at once, and the next “Annual Report” would show a revenue of \$25,000, applicable to library purposes.

The Board would acknowledge the many favors received

* Of the two hundred and seventy-one Merchants and Mercantile Firms, original subscribers to the stock of *Clinton-Hall Association*, 1828–30, nearly one half are at the present time living, and with few exceptions, engaged in active business. Among these are some of the most prominent merchants of this city; and, on the purchase of the Astor-Place property, they largely increased their subscriptions.

t the hands of the Trustees of the Clinton-Hall Association, and express their thanks to those gentlemen for their uniform liberality and attention to our requirements.

INSTITUTION FOR THE SAVINGS OF MERCHANTS' CLERKS.

This most excellent and valuable Institution answers fully the purposes for which it was established. Its deposits exceed *one million of dollars*.

The Special Charter granted by the legislature, provides a Board of Trustees composed of gentlemen whose character and position in this community guarantee a faithful administration of its affairs, and entitle the institution to the entire confidence of its depositors.

In common with this and other public institutions, the Mercantile Library Association have great reason to deplore the recent death of Mr. ROBERT KELLY, 1st Vice-President of the Institution for the Savings of Merchants' Clerks, and until within a few days of his decease, a Trustee of the Clinton-Hall Association, always the true friend of our institution. In his recent report as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the New York Society Library, he makes mention of the Mercantile Library "as the most successful organization of its character in the world."

The Mercantile Library Association never could have attained this position without the aid of men and merchants like Philip Hone and Robert Kelly; and we are rejoiced to see with us this evening *merchants* of like character, who encourage us with their presence, and aid us with their bounty, thus doing service to the cause of literature by advancing its interests and ennobling its objects.

CONCLUSION.

We have concluded the review of the operations of our institution for the sixteen months. The results may be summed up as follows :

Expended by your Board for library purposes (viz., books, periodicals, binding, catalogue, and fixtures), increasing its value to this amount,	\$6,924 00
Donations of statuary, paintings, books, &c., estimated by your Librarian, at	9,000 00
Total increase of your property,	<hr/> \$15,924 00

Shall we add to this account the results of the action of the Trustees of Clinton-Hall Association, as presented in their report this evening ?

The hopes and wishes of your Board will be satisfied when the debt of the Clinton-Hall Association is entirely paid off, and the revenue of this noble edifice shall be appropriated for the benefit of the Mercantile Library Association !

The first Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Mercantile Library Association, was made on Tuesday evening, 6th November, 1821, to a meeting of its members, held at the Tontine Coffee House ; and we copy from that report the following :

“The establishment of a literary institution, whose object is the dissemination of knowledge and the cultivation of intellect, which gives expansion to genius and energy to the mind, is a spectacle which the friends of science and humanity cannot behold but with approbation and delight ; especially when such an institution is raised and supported by the exertions of a youthful Association, by a class of

persons too often regardless of such important duties, it does, and should of right, beget the noblest feelings of which our nature is susceptible."

Nearly thirty-five years have passed away, and the report presented to you this evening, shows a noble institution, richly endowed, and deserving, as it has received, the confidence and support of this community. It shows to you that since that meeting held at the Tontine Coffee House 6th November, 1821, 22,164 young men have been identified with the institution as members; over 55,000 volumes have been added to the Library; \$80,514 has been expended in the purchase of books, periodicals, and binding; and the total library receipts from all sources (except lectures and classes) amount to \$173,000.

Is it in vain, to hope that in time our library shall be the largest on this continent, "when the merchants and clerks of New York endow it and bid it go on" in the great work of educating and fitting the young man of to-day for the duties and responsibilities of the merchant of to-morrow.

With our noble library largely increased in every department, the Reading Room adorned with works of art, and richly supplied with its periodical literature; lectures of high character, and classes in the various branches of education providing ample means for qualifying its members to take a high rank in commercial life, the merchants and clerks of New York may well be proud of "their Institution."

On behalf of the Board,

GEO. C. WOOD,

MAY, 1856.

PRESIDENT.

Librarian's Report.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

GENTLEMEN,—In the month of April, 1855, upon application to your body, a five months' leave of absence was readily and kindly granted me, for the purpose of visiting Europe. At the time of making this application, I stated in general terms that it was my desire to gain, by actual inspection, some knowledge of European libraries, with especial reference to their mode of administration. It was not supposed that the manner of conducting those institutions, however suitable for them and well adapted to their requirements, would necessarily prove the best for us, or serve the convenience of our members; but it was expected, and with good reason, that nowhere else could one gain in a limited time more of the results of long experience and mature consideration, than in institutions where every detail has been studied, and every appliance sought for the better conduct of affairs.

A second object I had, as appropriate to my position in your Association, viz., to observe the Book Trade abroad, its various divisions, with their several manner of doing business, and to make such arrangements with them as would best secure our interests in procuring foreign works at any time. Excellent facilities were afforded me for both these purposes, by that most judicious of book collectors, Dr. Cogswell, of the Astor Library; by Prof. Henry, of Washington; and by many others at home and abroad, whose kindness I shall not cease to remember with gratitude.

Of the libraries visited, and the observations which I was enabled to make, I shall endeavor to give you a very succinct account.

My first care, upon arriving in Great Britain, was to examine the workings of the "Free Library" System. This is one which corresponds more nearly with our own than any other to be met with abroad. Within a few years it has been developing itself, and has already proved eminently successful. Those established in Liverpool, Manchester, and Salford, are among the most vigorous; and these I examined with considerable care. That in Liverpool is under the superintendence of Mr. Dalton; that in Man-

chester, of Edward Edwards, Esq.; and that in Salford, of Mr. Plant. Each of these gentlemen were very ready to communicate whatever was peculiar to their several institutions; but as the main features of all are similar, I will speak principally of that in Liverpool, which first came under my notice. A prominent characteristic of these libraries, is the marked distinction observed by them, between the Reference and the Lending Departments. That portion of the Library which is permitted to circulate, is far smaller and composed of less costly works than that which is reserved for consultation, or for reading within the walls of the building. In Manchester and Salford the two departments are merely in separate rooms; but in Liverpool they are, for the greater convenience of the population, in different buildings.

The Reference portion of the Liverpool Free Library is centrally situated, and contains 18,000 volumes, as also a Reading Room and a fine collection of maps. The two Lending Libraries connected with it, entitled respectively, those of the North and South District, are located in parts of the city quite removed from each other. They number about 4,000 volumes each, and consist of nearly the same works. Persons entitled to draw books, must decide which of them they will make use of, and a ticket is given for that one only. The Reference Library is open to all who desire to consult it; but in order to draw books from the others, a certificate of security is required, signed by two rate-payers. It was very gratifying to note the admirable system that prevails in each department, and the little liability to error that was manifest. As an evidence of this I would mention, that out of 140,000 volumes circulated to October, 1855, only one had been lost to the library, and that was obtained upon a forged certificate! Many interesting particulars might be added, of the class of persons who make use of those libraries, and the character of works drawn by them. Some of these will be found in their Annual Reports, which, together with their Catalogues and the various blanks used by them, I take the opportunity of laying before you this evening. Undoubtedly, one great source of attraction with these libraries, is the Museum of Natural History, of Art, or of Useful Inventions, which is usually attached to them. As an instance of this, I would state that the number of visitors to the Salford Museum, during the year ending November, 1855, was 448,220, while the number of volumes issued to readers, was 115,457.

The other libraries visited in Liverpool were the Liverpool Library and the Athenæum. The Liverpool Library, in the Lyceum, contains 43,000 volumes; is circulating; annual dues, £1; John Perris, Librarian. It is just one hundred years old, and corresponds very much to the N. Y. Society Library. The Athenæum Library is very exclusive; contains 21,000 volumes; annual subscription, £2; does not allow its books to circulate; Wm. Roscoe Jones, Librarian. Both institutions have all their available shelf-room occupied, and consequently, do not take much pains to increase their store by purchase. Their Reading Rooms were among their most at-

tractive features, well lighted and supplied with the local journals of Great Britain. Nowhere in England, however, did I find a supply of magazines equal to our own. One very important source of information is often contained in them; I refer to the *Telegraphic Bulletins*, on which, by an arrangement with the companies, are regularly posted in advance of the mails, all important news from the seat of war; proceedings of Parliament; sales at the London Stock Exchange; arrival of vessels, &c. &c. This is constantly consulted, and subscribers often step in for a few minutes in different parts of the day, to learn if any thing important has transpired.

At Manchester, after spending a most profitable morning at the Free Library, which numbers about 20,000 volumes in the Reference department and 8,000 in the Lending,* I visited the Chetham Library, founded in 1655, containing many rare old works. It is free to all for consultation, but continues open only until sun-down; Mr. Thomas Jones, Librarian. Afterwards I saw the Portico Institution and the Athenæum. This latter is established upon a similar plan to our own Association, having classes and lectures. Either from being interfered with by the Free Library, or from a lack of enterprise on the part of its managers, the Institution seems to be decaying, and this in despite of a noble building erected for its use by the liberality of Manchester merchants. In the Portico Library I noticed some bindings in a very dilapidated condition, evidently not the result of mere wear, and upon asking if this was the effect of having gas in the building, I was told it was. When in the British Museum a few days later, the circumstance was mentioned to Mr. Panizzi, who seemed to concur in the cause assigned, and referred to a tour of investigation on this subject which he had made some time previously in company with Mr. Faraday, when they became convinced of such being the effects produced by burning gas among collections of books. Since then, however, I have been led to question whether this decay is not even more likely to arise from acids or sulphate of zinc being employed in staining or dressing the leather, than from the products of gas combustion, which, being merely carbonic acid gas and water, are comparatively innocuous.

Upon visiting the British Museum Library, I had the pleasure of interviews with Mr. Panizzi, then the keeper of printed books, but now the principal Librarian; with Mr. Jones, who has been called to occupy Mr. Panizzi's former position; and with Mr. Watts, now Assistant Keeper. To all of these gentlemen I felt under obligations, for their readiness to forward my wishes.

The work upon the new Reading Room, which is to occupy the quadrangle formerly vacant, was going rapidly forward, and the frame-work of

* The learned and accomplished librarian of this institution, Edward Edwards, Esq., has long been preparing, and is now carrying through the press, a work upon the history and proper management of libraries. We know of no country where such a work would be likely to prove more serviceable than our own, in every part of which libraries are springing into existence, which are destined to occupy an increasing importance in popular education.

the dome already revealed its magnificent proportions. A fine model of this structure was to be seen in the Librarian's room; the plan adopted for the arrangement of the tables being that known as the "panopticon."

Public or Circulating Libraries, of a character like our own, are almost unknown in London. The Russell Institution, and the small collection under the management of the Young Men's Christian Association, though good of their kind, leave the great mass of the community without any other resources for the temporary use of books than such as are afforded by booksellers, of whom more than eighty let out works at rates varying from a penny per volume to a guinea per year. Prominent among these, is Mudie's circulating library, located in the vicinity of the British Museum, which has advertised no less than three hundred copies of one work and *twenty-seven hundred* copies of another (Macaulay's England, vols. 3 and 4)! The proprietor is enabled to do this by getting special discounts on his purchases, and by selling surplus copies as soon as the circulation slackens, which often takes place very soon, and before the work has received any injury. The very fact that a new work, however expensive, can be readily procured here, invites subscribers not from the metropolis alone, but from all parts of England. A Free Library has been recently established in the suburb of Marylebone; but when one was proposed for London last fall, it was voted against very decidedly by the working-men, who are unwilling to have any additions made to their "rates," even for such an object.

In Paris, I visited the Bibliothèque Impériale and the Bibliothèque Ste. Geneviève. At the former I saw M. Taschereau, the Head Librarian. He was courteous, but exceedingly occupied, as one occupying so responsible a position must ever be. I was shown through the various departments by a young man, English by birth—and the only one of the employees who could converse in English. Many of the rarest works were only to be seen through wire gratings, it not being permitted to examine them except upon an order from the directors. The visit was not a very satisfactory one; and although it claims to be the largest library in the world, it appeared far from having that thorough *régime* which characterizes the royal libraries of Germany. It was a grateful change to observe the Bibliothèque Ste. Geneviève. This is emphatically a free library, and every reasonable facility seems to be afforded for rendering it available to students and readers. Long tables, conveniently arranged, well lighted by day and having gas fixtures for evening hours, with a sufficient staff of sub-librarians to meet the wants of readers—it is thrown open to every one who can make use of it, and seemed to leave nothing to be desired but ample funds to procure whatever works might there be sought. One of the few restrictions imposed is, that novels shall not be read in the building; for, as it is located in the "Quartier Latin," and is comfortably warmed and lighted, it was found that students would spend their long winter evenings reading such literature. A glance at the

Bibliothèque Mazarine, and one at the Seientifie Colleotion belonging to the Aeademý of Sciences, completed my aequaintanee with the libraries of this great metropolis. One looks in vain in Paris for the well-organized circulating library. In its place he often sees, posted in a window, some of the more popular recent works, which are for hire at the rate of two or three sous a day. The wants of English and American travelers are met, in some degree, by the private circulating library connected with Galignani's establishment. It consists of three or four thousand volumes, and can be subscribed to by the month or week.

The book stands and stalls which flank the bridges and line the quays, have a great interest for the book-buyer; and often, as I journeyed to or from the office of my valued friend, Mons. Bossange, I was tempted to look them over until a few francs had been exchanged for nearly as many volumes.

At Lyons, I had an opportunity of seeing one of those old city libraries which are to be met with in nearly every large town of France. It contained about 100,000 volumes, in which the learning of the past is embodied rather than that of to-day. Its well-prepared MS. catalogue showed that few additions are making to it by purchase—its funds merely sufficing for its economical maintenance. The librarian in charge, Mons. Mulsant, who is also the President of the Nat. Hist. Society of Lyons, left no part of the establishment unvisited. Upon asking for American works, I was shown a pretty complete series of the Agricultural Society Transactions of our several States. These were among the few fruits that I had anywhere observed of "International Exchanges."

It would be uninteresting to speak in much detail of the libraries visited in Switzerland. A painful want of progress is manifest there. Many valuable works are contained in their walls; but Theology and History preponderate; and one finds himself looking with more interest at the portraits of old worthies, at the autographs of Reformers, or at a raised map of the country through which he is journeying, than at aught more literary.

The City Library of Augsburg lacks adequate funds for adding to its collection of 100,000 volumes. It is used considerably, and books are allowed to be drawn by certain classes. What most struck my notice was, that neither in this Library nor in that of the Society of Natural History, was there any copy of the Smithsonian publications, which are very generally found throughout Europe. That excellent series of works, together with the Natural History of the State of New York and the volumes of the United States Exploring Expedition, is highly esteemed, and would be particularly so in this city, where a fine spirit of enterprise and inquiry is manifested by its scientific men. The hours spent in the society of Mr. Grieff, of the City Library, and of Mr. Roger, Custos of the Natural History Collection, were among the most congenial that I had passed for weeks.

The Royal Library of Munich, generally considered as second in size

to that of Paris, contains some 800,000 volumes, and has the rare advantage of occupying a building erected expressly for its accommodation and adapted to its requirements. It is common to suppose that in large collections of books there will be an overwhelming sense of their vastness; whereas most of these large libraries are so distributed through separate apartments that the visitor seldom sees so many volumes before him at once as he does in our own Astor or Congressional Libraries. In the building at Munich, which has a front of 520 feet in length, there are no less than fifty-five apartments devoted to books, besides those given to manuscripts, periodicals, maps, &c. The vast collection is well catalogued; and I had the satisfaction of finding in its register the last Catalogue of our own library, sent abroad some years ago. The system of classification adopted is exceedingly minute, and indicative of the German order of mind. As it was one actually in operation, I was very glad to obtain a transcript of it; which I was enabled to do through the kindness of Mr. Wiedmann, the sub-librarian.

At Dresden, the Royal Library, of 400,000 volumes, enabled me to pass several hours very pleasantly. Dr. Kleinm showed me through the various departments, which were admirably subdivided. It was interesting to see the attention paid to the History of Saxony, from its more general scope down to that of villages, of families, and of individuals. Many of the leading works of American Science and Literature were represented here. I cannot stop to speak of the interesting MSS. illuminations, and examples of early printing, which are found here and elsewhere in Germany. The guide-books generally make mention of them; and I must confess that to me they had a secondary importance, even, to observing what was peculiar in the arrangement and mode of administration adopted, and the relative attention paid to different departments of literature.

The Royal Library at Berlin gave me, however, more satisfactory information concerning the manner of conducting large institutions of this kind than I had elsewhere obtained. And for this I feel indebted especially to the extreme courtesy of its superintendent, the learned historian and bibliographer, Dr. Pertz. Upon ascertaining that I had only a short time to stay in Berlin, he appointed the hour of opening the library, upon the day following my arrival, for me to meet him; and from that time until the hour of closing, I was occupied in gaining those details of administration which were of such exceeding interest, and to obtain which would have repaid for the whole journey. Beginning at the Catalogues, which were both alphabetical and analytical, and arranged with a minuteness which enabled me to ascertain, in a few moments, whether some American Educational Reports that I had with me were already in their collection, the general arrangement of the collection came under review; and as much time as could be given was devoted to looking into divisions in which this library is especially rich. The rare works and MSS., the almost unique collections of Hymnology, of Old Plays, and of Hand Bills, were pointed out, as were

also the arrangements of assistants and their especial duties, the extent to which the library was made accessible to the public, the attention paid to English and American literature, each of which were very creditably represented, and the manner in which especial grants from the king or government had been expended for special purposes. Lastly, the Reading-Room was examined, and this, as in the Munich Library, is a very prominent feature. Judging that the selection of Periodical Literature here made would be a useful guide to our own and other institutions on this side of the water, I requested a list of those taken, which was accorded with the same kindness which had characterized all of my intercourse with Dr. Pertz; and as time would not permit for this to be done at once, it was made and forwarded after my departure. The number of volumes loaned from this collection to readers in Berlin is about forty thousand annually.

On returning to Great Britain, I made a rapid visit to the Bodleian and Radcliffe Libraries at Oxford, and passed on to Edinburgh; where I was particularly interested in seeing the Advocate's Library and the Library of the Writers to the Signet, under the charge respectively of Messrs. Halkett and Laing. A visit to the College Library, was only noteworthy as affording an interview with Alexander Smith, the Glasgow poet.

At Glasgow, where I went principally to attend the meeting of the British Association, and look upon men of science and listen to their deliberations, I visited the Glasgow Athenæum; which, like that in Manchester, shows little signs of progress. I could not but attribute it in a great degree here, to the fact that the offices are filled by men of high civil position, rather than by those who are most concerned in the success of the institution: I mean the young men of Glasgow. Its annual subscription to members, is one guinea. Judging from our own experience, I could not but suggest the propriety of lessening their dues, and having the Society officered by young men who had time and inclination to attend to its interests; and there seemed to be no reason why its success should not be commensurate with our own.

Of my visit to Belfast and Dublin, I will not speak in detail. Indeed, my attention in Ireland was more directed to the national system of education which is there being so successfully developed, than to anything else. With this, Mr. Sumner's recent address has already acquainted you; and the text-books and reports which Mr. Cross, Secretary of the Board, put at my disposal, and which I take pleasure in presenting to the Library, will give you still further illustrations.

Very respectfully submitted,

S. HASTINGS GRANT,

Librarian.

Appendix.

L I S T

OF

PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS.

M A G A Z I N E S.

American.

- | | |
|--|---|
| American Agriculturist. | Magazine of Horticulture. |
| American Journal of Education. | Mercantile Library Reporter. |
| American Journal of Education (Barnard's). | Mercersburg Review. |
| American Journal of Medical Science. | Methodist Quarterly. |
| American Journal of Science and Art. | Methodist Quarterly of the Episcopal Church (South). |
| American Messenger. | Mining Magazine. |
| American Phrenological Journal. | Mirror of Fashion. |
| Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York. | Missionary Herald. |
| Bankers' Magazine. | Monthly Trade Gazette. |
| Bible Society Record. | National Magazine. |
| Biblical Repertory and Princeton Review. | Nautical Magazine. |
| Bibliotheca Sacra. | New England Historical and Genealogical Register. |
| Blackwood's Magazine. | New Englander. |
| Brownson's Quarterly. | North American Review. |
| Chemist. | Parish Visitor. |
| Christian Examiner. | Photographic Fine Art Journal. |
| Christian Review. | Pioneer. |
| Church Review. | Plough, Loom, and Anvil. |
| Colporter. | Presbyterian Quarterly. |
| Crayon. | Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. |
| Cultivator. | Protestant Episcopal Quarterly. |
| De Bow's Review. | Putnam's Monthly. |
| Deutsche Monatshefte. | Republican Quarterly. |
| Eclectic Magazine. | Sacred Circle. |
| Foreign Missionary. | Sailor's Magazine. |
| Genius of the West. | Scalpel. |
| Graham's Magazine. | Southern Quarterly Review. |
| Harper's Magazine. | Spirit of Missions. |
| Home Missionary. | Student and Schoolmate. |
| Horticulturist. | Southern Literary Messenger. |
| Hunt's Merchants' Magazine. | Southern Presbyterian Review. |
| Insurance Monitor. | Theological and Literary Journal. |
| Inventor. | Tiffany's Monthly. |
| Journal of the Franklin Institute. | Union Quarterly. |
| Knickerbocker Magazine. | Universalist Quarterly. |
| Littell's Living Age. | Water-Cure Journal. |
| London Lancet. | Western Journal and Civilian. |

British.

- Annals and Magazine of Natural Hist.
 Assurance Magazine.
 Art Journal.
 Artizan.
 Banker's Magazine.
 Bentley's Miscellany.
 Bent's Literary Advertiser.
 Blackwood's Magazine.
 British Quarterly.
 British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review.
 Builder.
 Chambers' Edinburgh Journal.
 Chemical Gazette.
 Chess-Player's Chronicle.
 Christian Observer.
 Christian Remembrancer.
 Church of England Quarterly.
 Civil Engineer and Architect's Journal.
 Colburn's New Monthly.
 Colburn's United Service Journal.
 Dublin Review.
 Dublin University Magazine.
 Eclectic Review.
 Edinburgh New Philosophical Mag.
 Edinburgh Quarterly Journal of Agriculture.
 Edinburgh Review.
 Educational Times.
 English Journal of Education.
 Excelsior.
 Frazer's Magazine.
 Gentlemen's Magazine.
 Hogg's Instructor.
 Household Narrative.
 Household Words.
 Irish Quarterly.
 Journal of Classical and Sacred Philology.
 Journal of Psychological Medicine.
 Journal of Public Health.
 Journal of the Royal Geographical Society.
 Journal of Sacred Literature.
 Journal of the Society of Arts.
 Journal of the Statistical Society.
 Leisure Hour.
 Little Dorrit.
 London Quarterly.
 Mechanic's Magazine.
 Merchant's Magazine.
 National Review.
 Nautical Magazine.
 New Quarterly.
 Newton's London Journal.
 Notes and Queries.
 North British Review.
 Oxford and Cambridge Magazine.
 Philosophical Magazine.
 Practical Mechanic's Journal.
 Publisher's Circular.
 Quarterly Journal of the Chemical Society.
 Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society.
 Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science.
 Quarterly Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics.
 Quarterly Review.
 Repertory of Patent Inventions.
 Scottish Review.
 Sharpe's London Magazine.
 Sporting Magazine.
 Tait's Edinburgh Magazine.
 Vegetarian Messenger.
 Wesleyan Methodist Magazine.
 Westminster Review.

French and German.

- Allgemeine Bibliographie für Deutschland.
 Annalen der Physik und Chemie.
 Bibliographie de la France.
 Bulletin de la Société de la Géographie.
 Comptes Rendus.
 Deutsche Vierteljahrschrift.
 Grenzboten.
 Journal des Economistes.
 Mittheilungen; von Petermann.
 Neuer Anzeiger für Bibliographie.
 Polytechnisches Journal (Dingler's).
 Rivista Contemporanea (Turin).
 Revue des Deux Mondes.
 Revue de Paris.
 Serapeum.
 Theologische Studien und Kritiken.
 Technologiste.
 Zeitschrift für Allgemeine Erdkunde.

NEWSPAPERS.

American.

- Albion.
 American Mining Chronicle.
 American Publishers' Circular.
 Courier des Etats-Unis
 Christian Advocate and Journal.
 Christian Enquirer.
 Christian Intelligencer.
 Christian Spiritualist.
 Church Journal.
 Churchman.

Citizen.
 Colburn's Railroad Advocate.
 Criterion.
 Evening Mirror.
 Evening Post.
 Examiner.
 Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper.
 Home Journal.
 Independent.
 Irish American.
 Irish News.
 Life Illustrated.
 Morning Courier and New York En-
 quirer.
 National Anti-Slavery Standard.
 Neue Zeit.
 New Jerusalem Messenger.
 New York Commercial Advertiser.
 New York Chronicle.
 New York Daily Herald.
 New York Daily News.
 New York Daily Times.
 New York Daily Tribune.
 New York Evangelist.
 New York Evening Express.
 New York Express Messenger.
 New York Freeman's Journal.
 New York Journal of Commerce.
 New York Morning Express.
 New York Musical Review.
 New York Musical World.
 New York Observer.
 Presbyterian.
 Protestant Churchman.
 Scientific American.

Shipping and Commercial List.
 Spirit of the Times.
 Spiritual Telegraph.
 Sun.
 Truthteller.
 United States Economist.

Albany Evening Journal.
 American and Commercial Advertiser
 (Baltimore).
 Boston Daily Advertiser.
 Boston Evening Telegraph.
 Boston Post.
 Buffalo Express.
 Charleston Daily Standard.
 Chicago Daily Tribune.
 Cincinnati Daily Commercial.
 Daily Cleveland Herald.
 Daily Evening Bulletin (Phila.)
 Daily Missouri Democrat (St. Louis).
 Daily National Intelligencer (Wash-
 ington).
 Daily News (Philadelphia).
 Detroit Daily Advertiser.
 Leader (Toronto).
 Louisville Daily Journal.
 Mobile Daily Advertiser.
 New Orleans Daily Picayune.
 North American and United States
 Gazette (Philadelphia).
 Pella Gazette.
 Pittsburg Daily Dispatch.
 Princeton Press.
 Richmond Daily Enquirer.
 Savannah Daily Republican.

Foreign.

Athenæum.
 Christian Times.
 Critic.
 Dublin Evening Mail.
 Dublin Nation.
 Economist.
 Examiner.
 Illustrated London News.
 Leader.
 Literary Gazette.
 London Times.
 Mark Lane Express.
 Punch.
 Saturday Review.
 Spectator.
 Wilmer and Smith's European Times.

Lien (Le).

American (Paris).
 Independence Belge.
 Journal des Debats.
 L'Athenæum Française.
 L'Illustration,

Ausland.
 Allgemeine Zeitung.
 Bremer Handelsblatt.
 Fliegende Blätter.
 Illustrierte Zeitung.
 L'Opinione (Turin).
 Aftonbladet (Stockholm).
 Fædrelandet (Copenhagen).
 Weekly Herald (Melbourne, Australia).
 Argus (Melbourne, Australia).
 Friend of India (Serampore).
 Boletín Oficial (Costa Rica).
 Correio Mercantil (Rio Janeiro).
 Diario de la Marina (Havanna).
 Mercurio de Provincias (Valparaiso).
 Mercurio del Vapor (Valparaiso).
 Omnibus (El) (Mexico).
 Panameño (El) (Panama).
 Prensa de la Habaña (Havanna).
 Tiempo (El) (Bogota).

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TRUTH. By MOZIER.

Presented by *Henry A. Stone, Esq.*

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PROFILE BUST IN RELIEF OF JOHN W. STEBBINS.

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MINIATURE BUST OF FRANKLIN. By CLEVINGER.

Presented by *Messrs. Elliott, Costar, and E. & S. Prime.*

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Presented by the *National Academy of Design.*

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"SPARKING,"

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CALL FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

Presented by *Wm. Wood, Esq.*, of Canandaigua.

ORIGINAL DRAFT OF THE CHARTER OF THE MERCANTILE LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION of the city of New York.

DAGUERREOTYPE LIKENESS OF WM. WOOD, Esq., of Canandaigua.

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FAC-SIMILE OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

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FAC-SIMILE OF THE MAGNA CHARTA.

AUTOGRAPH OF SIR WALTER SCOTT.

R E P O R T

OF

THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

Clinton Hall Association.

TRUSTEES
OF THE
Clinton Hall Association.

PRESIDENT,
WILSON G. HUNT.

SECRETARY,
CHARLES E. MILNOR,

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

Clinton Hall Association.

OWING to the adoption of the plan for enlarging the basis of usefulness of the CLINTON HALL ASSOCIATION, by procuring the passage of a legislative enactment for the augmentation of its capital, and by removing the Library to the edifice in Astor Place, no formal report upon the financial state of the institution has been made by the Trustees since 1851.

The stockholders and the public have, from time to time, been apprised of the steps taken to enlarge the sphere of its usefulness, and enable it more adequately to meet the requirements of a rapidly expanding city; but the progressive and unfinished state of the task undertaken by the Trustees, has, from its very nature, prevented them from furnishing, until recently, a full and connected statement of their financial transactions.

Indeed, their work can hardly be said to be completed even now, since they propose taking certain steps of a prospective character to extinguish the mortgage upon their edifice, which is the only incumbrance remaining upon the institution, and thus to be enabled to apply their whole income

directly to the increase of the Library, the only legitimate object of interest, compared with which all other objects are only as means to an end.

It is unnecessary to recapitulate, at this time, the proceedings of the Trustees since they determined to remove the site of the institution to Astor Place.

Of their labors, and of the responsibilities necessarily incurred in effecting the removal, and establishing the Library in its present location, the stockholders and the public may judge by the result. From a modest and comparatively small beginning, the resources of the Association have been augmented by the judicious liberality of our fellow citizens to an extent commensurate with the growing wants of our city.

Clinton Hall, on its new site, is, out of all contrast, preferable to the contracted and inconvenient quarters formerly occupied by the Association, being a commodious and tasteful edifice, central in location, and easy of access ; costing two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, with an incumbrance upon it of only seventy-five thousand dollars.

The Trustees, in carrying out the plans incident to the removal, deemed it expedient to make an appeal to the merchants of New York in its behalf. This appeal has been nobly responded to. Six hundred and fifty shares of stock have been subscribed for by them, placing in the hands of the Trustees sixty-five thousand dollars ; a tangible proof of the deep interest felt in the welfare of the institution, and of the ties between the merchants of this city and their clerks.

The removal to Astor Place, and the consequent increase of active members to the Library, has created a demand for books beyond the ability of the Board to furnish.

In addition to the members by annual subscription, the stockholders have availed themselves of their privileges,

thus, in fact, increasing the number of members by the number of shares subscribed. In order to accomplish in one year what, by the gradual operation of the sinking fund from the rentals, would otherwise be the work of twenty, the Trustees propose to offer to the public seven hundred and fifty shares of one hundred dollars each, and thus realize a sum sufficient to pay off at once all the indebtedness of the institution.

This being effected, the whole income from the building, by the agreement between the Clinton Hall Association and the Mercantile Library Association, is to be devoted to the Library; and in a very few years the Library, Reading, Lecture, and Class Rooms, would present such attractions as to draw young men, desirous of mental improvement, from every part of our city.

Much has been done by our merchants to build up this institution; but more remains to be accomplished. The rents of the building go to form a sinking fund that, in time, will pay off its indebtedness. The Trustees wish to anticipate this period, and at an early day to present the institution to the world free from debt. The stock offered is an investment that each shareholder may make profitable to himself. In addition to the advantages received from the Library by the shareholders, they are extending the influence of the institution, and increasing the ability of the Board to furnish books in greater number. Shares in the capital stock of the Clinton Hall Association are worth all they cost, and each year adds to their value in a ratio corresponding with the increase of the Library. To form a correct idea of this matter, it is only necessary to go back ten years, and compare its condition then with its present state. Thus we may be enabled to measure the advantages it has conferred upon its past members,

and to judge of its future destiny. Look at the list of the members ten years ago, and we find in the clerks of that period the enterprising and successful merchants of to-day. Still further, among the stockholders of the Clinton Hall Association may be found many who in early life were members of the Mercantile Library Association, and who since engaging in mercantile pursuits have not allowed the engrossing cares of business to diminish the deep and abiding interest which they felt in the welfare of the institution. In fact, it is in a great degree owing to their exertions, that its affairs have prospered.

Before closing this Report, the Trustees feel bound to call the attention of the stockholders, and, through them, of the public, to the unrivaled accommodations furnished by the Reading and Conversation Rooms, which, without any stretch of language, may be literally said to afford the comforts of a home. Here ingenuous youth, assembled for mental and moral instruction and recreation, may lay the foundation of friendships that will last a lifetime.

The Trustees again appeal to those who have not yet subscribed to this useful institution, the creation of the merchants of this metropolis. It is the only monument erected wholly by their liberality. As such we ask them to complete the work so nearly finished, and to inscribe their names on its tablets by the side of those of the venerable and illustrious men who laid its foundations.

WILSON G. HUNT, *Pres't.*

NEW YORK, *May*, 1856.

REPORT

OF THE TREASURER OF THE CLINTON HALL ASSOCIATION.

DISBURSEMENTS.		RECEIPTS.	
1851.—Interest paid on Bond,	\$120 00	1851.—Balance on hand from 1850,	664 29
“ Paid principal of Bond,	2,000 00	“ Rental of stores, &c.	3,250 00
“ Repairs in building, shelving,	539 55	“ Avails of Lecture Hall,	158 00
“ Printing and advertising, coal and Croton,	128 08		
“ Insurance, 107 50; gas, 30 75,	138 25		
“ Janitor's Salary,	300 00		
1852.—Repairs of building,	123 00	1852.—Rental of stores and Lecture Hall,	3,716 00
“ Coal, gas, and water tax,	113 50	“ Interest,	103 28
“ Insurance, 107 50; printing, 1 25,	108 75		
“ Janitor,	266 67		
1853.—Paid Mr. Morgan and others,	40,591 11	1853.—Sale of Clinton Hall to Nassau Bank,	100,000 00
“ Interest on mortgage,	3,000 00	“ Interest,	571 79
“ Paid contractors,	28,576 25	“ Rental, November to May,	1,850 00
“ Printing,	194 94	“ Sale of Opera House furniture,	3,444 20
“ Janitor and private watch,	219 47		
“ Nassau Bank, rent for Mercantile Library Association,	500 00		
“ Chinese Assembly Room, do.	10 00		
“ Common Council, N. Y., vaults,	541 20		
“ Legal services, searching title,	337 25		
“ Insurance,	926 64		
“ Incidental expenses,	78 46		
1854.—Paid contractors and furniture,	66,583 57	1854.—Subscriptions to stock,	48,750 00
“ Insurance,	1,453 24	“ Interest,	1,382 81
“ Interest on mortgage,	6,000 00	“ Rental,	2,974 33
“ Rent Nassau Bank, for Mercantile Library Association,	1,000 00		
“ Rent Hope Chapel,	35 00		
“ Coal and gas,	1,188 77		
“ Printing,	283 88		
“ Examining titles and legal documents,	400 00		
1855.—Interest on mortgage \$100,000, 1½ years,	9,000 00	1855.—Subscriptions to stock,	12,750 00
“ Insurance 1½ years,	1,656 25	“ Rental,	7,373 19
“ Rent No. 2 Nassau street, 1½ years,	450 00	“ Interest on balance from Nassau Bank,	820 73
“ Bills of furniture, &c.,	3,092 44		
“ W. C. Wetmore, examining titles,	325 00		
“ Coal and wood,	940 62		
“ Gas and Croton,	502 57		
“ Janitor's salary,	300 00		
Balance,	15,784 16		
	<u>\$187,808 62</u>		<u>187,808 62</u>
		1856.—Balance on hand,	\$15,784 16

The Trustees have the pleasure of informing the stockholders and members of the Association, that since making up the above report, they have received from subscriptions and rentals, a sufficient sum to pay on the original indebtedness twenty-five thousand dollars, leaving a balance due of seventy-five thousand dollars.

